

WE CLAIM

1. A method of supporting an electronic component, which comprises:

providing an online catalogue with electronic components;

storing a computer-executable file with a simulator for simulating a circuit behavior of a specific one of the electronic components;

linking the computer-executable file to the specific electronic component in the online catalogue and enabling download of the computer-executable file to a consumer and enabling the consumer to execute a simulation with the specific electronic component.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises archiving the computer-executable file and prompting the consumer to extract and install the computer-executable file prior to executing the simulation.

3. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises storing simulation models for the electronic components in the online catalogue and enabling the consumer to download either a simulation model or a standalone simulator linked to a given one of the electronic components.

4. A virtual product support system, comprising:

a computer-readable file with a listing of electronic components;

a storage system storing computer-executable files with standalone simulators for simulating an electronic behavior of the electronic components;

a computer-readable file with a listing of the standalone simulators available in said storage system and with linking information between individual standalone simulators and individual electronic components; and

a network connection for providing access to said listing of standalone simulators and for enabling download, by a customer, of individual simulators via said network connection.

5. The virtual product support system according to claim 4, wherein said network connection is an Internet connection and said listing of the standalone simulators is hyperlinked to said computer-executable files.